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שבלת, ישראל, רוברטס, זיסמן ושות'
SHIBOLETH, YISRAELI, ROBERTS, ZISMAN & CO.

ADVOCATES, PATENT ATTORNEYS & NOTARY

SAVYON I. AMIT
GIL ARIE
LIOR AVIRAM
HELENA BEILIN
RON BEN-MENACHEM
DAVID BERNHEIM
MIRI BICKEL
RUTH DAGAN
JONATHAN FEIGIN
AMIR FISHER
ALMOG GEVA
MICHAL GOTTESMAN-BARAK
DOV GOVRIN
ROTEM HARARI
MIRIAM HELLER LIDI
HILLEL ISH-SHALOM
BENNY KALIPI
DR. YUVAL KARNIEL
BOAZ LAHOVITSKY

SYRZ

TEL AVIV ADDRESS
44-46 MONTEFIORE ST., TEL AVIV 65201, ISRAEL TEL: 972-3-7103311, FAX: 972-3-7103322
RAANANA ADDRESS
312 GRONCENNER, P.O.B. 410 RAANANA-43103, ISRAEL
TEL: 972-9-7713585, FAX: 972-9-7713593
NEW YORK ADDRESS
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING 350 FIFTH AVENUE, 60TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10118. TEL: (212) 244-4111, FAX: (212) 563-7108

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

EDWARD LANGER B.S.E.E., M.B.A., J.D. - ADV. & PAT. ATTY.
(Israel Bar), REG. US PAT. ATTY. (Pennsylvania Bar)

e-mail: e.langer@shibolet.com

EDWARD LANGER
OFER MANOR
MICHAEL B. NUSSBAUM
SHLOMIT OPHIR-HAREL
GADI OUZAN
LIMOR PELED
DIKLA PIUDIK
AVIGDOR RABINOVICH
DANA RAUCHER
IDIT REITER
RICHARD M. ROBERTS
LIOR SEGAL
OFER SHAPIRA
AMNON SHIBOLETH
ALON SOLOMON
ORIT STERNHELL-ZALZMAN
TAMIR TAL
YAACOV YISRAELI
ITZHAK ZISMAN

Tel-Aviv, March 31, 2003
BY FAX 001-703-872- 9310

Mr. Gregory Webb, Patent Examiner
US Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Re: US Patent Application No. 09/822,500
"OFFSET PRINTING PLATE FOR DIRECT INKJET CTP"
Our File: 1328

Dear Examiner Webb,

Following is a summary of the issues for our upcoming meeting on April 8, 2003 at 3:00 PM..

The subject patent application deals with a pre-treatment liquid used to treat an anodized aluminum plate that interacts immediately, both chemically and physically, with the CTP liquid to form a stable image with no clustering phenomenon. In this way, the image quality on the plate and the speed of plate preparation can be improved.

The pre-treatment liquid comprises an ion donor and a polymer swelling reagent and/or a coalescence reagent. The liquid can be provided as an aqueous and/or alcoholic solution or an oil in water emulsion (where the oil is a non-miscible swelling reagent). The swelling reagent and/or coalescence reagent as well as the ion donor are physically well localized in the porous structure of the plate's surface. The ion donor may be present as either an inorganic acid or a polyvalent metallic salt. The polyvalent metallic ions include anions and cations. The swelling and/or coalescence reagent enables the creation of a stable dot shape with good film properties and with very good adhesion to the anodized aluminum surface. These good film properties promote the mechanical stability of the dot and consequently of the image.

The ion donor may be present as either an inorganic acid or a polyvalent metallic salt. The polyvalent metallic ions include anions and cations. A metallic salt comprised of the metallic ions Zn^{+2} or Ca^{+2} provides especially favorable results in terms of image mechanical stability.

e-mail: manager@shibolet.com

www.shibolet.com

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Preferable polyvalent metal salt anions are chloride or acetate for optimal thermal stability. The pH of this acidic pre-treatment solution can vary between 1-4.

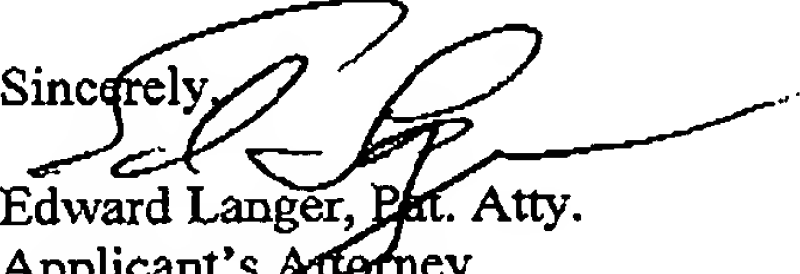
The swelling and/or coalescence reagent enables the creation of a stable dot shape with good film properties and with very good adhesion to the anodized aluminum surface. These good film properties promote the mechanical stability of the dot and consequently of the image.

It is important to note that what is claimed are functions (i.e. ion donor, swelling and/or coalescence reagent), and not specific chemicals. Certain chemicals, such as, for example, inorganic acids (see the affidavit previously submitted for further detail), may be capable of acting in more than one capacity and therefore may be found in other literature as well as in our own application while not performing the same function.

Though the chemicals contained in other preparations may be similar to those in the present invention, they do not perform the functions recited in the claim.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,


Edward Langer, Pat. Atty.
Applicant's Attorney
Reg. No. 30,564

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e-mail: manager@shibolet.com

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